

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (currently amended) The hydantoin of claim ~~6~~ 16, wherein R¹ is (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl or (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl.

8. (previously presented) The hydantoin of claim 7, wherein R¹ is isobutyl or cyclopropylmethyl.

9. (original) The hydantoin of claim 7, wherein the carbon atom carrying the R¹ residue has an S configuration.

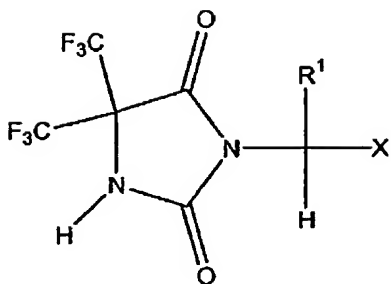
10. (currently amended) The hydantoin of claim ~~4~~ 16, wherein the carboxylic acid derivative is a (C₁-C₆)-alkyl carboxylate.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

13. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~12~~ 22, wherein the reaction is carried out in an inert solvent and at a temperature from about 20°C to about 80°C.

Claims 14-15 (canceled)

16. (New) A hydantoin having the formula:

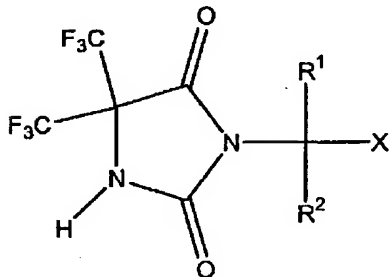


in any stereoisomeric or tautomeric form,

wherein R^1 is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted residue selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₆-C₁₂)-aryl, (C₆-C₁₂)-aryl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

wherein X is COOH or a salt or derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is an ester, an amide, a nitrile, an aldehyde or a hydroxymethyl group.

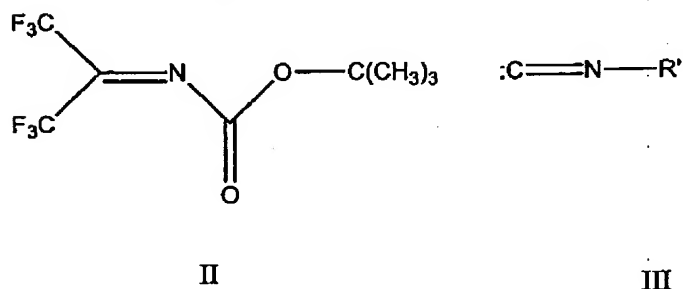
17. (New) A hydantoin having the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 independently are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted residue selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₆-C₁₂)-aryl, (C₆-C₁₂)-aryl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

wherein X is COOH or a salt or derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is an ester, an amide, a nitrile, an aldehyde or a hydroxymethyl group.

18. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 16, wherein X is COOH or a salt thereof.
19. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 17, wherein X is COOH or a salt thereof.
20. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 16, wherein X is an ester or an amide.
21. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 17, wherein X is an ester or an amide.
22. (New) A process for preparing a hydantoin according to claim 17, which comprises reacting the compound of formula II with a compound of formula III



wherein R' is -C(R¹)(R²)-X',

wherein R¹ and R² independently are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted residue selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₆-C₁₂)-aryl, (C₆-C₁₂)-aryl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, and

wherein X' is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid ester, an amide, a nitrile, an aldehyde and a hydroxymethyl group.

23. (new) The hydantoin of claim 17, wherein the carboxylic acid derivative is a (C₁-C₆)-alkyl carboxylate.